

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 /078 W
-----074932 131310Z /45

R 131050Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6995

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0992

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS UR SO ET MP
SUBJECT: DRAWING AFRICAN ATTENTION TO SOVIET ACTIVITY IN THE HORN

REF: STATE 214253

1. CHARGE TALKED WITH PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ABOUT VARIOUS AFRICAN PROBLEMS DURING COURSE OF PRIVATE DINNER SEPTEMBER 9M ON THE SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN QUESTION, PERMSEC DID NOT VIEW THE CONFLICT AS BEING NECESSARILY FUELED BY SOVIET ARMS. HE BELIEVED ANIMOSITIES WERE LONGSTANDING, AND ETHIOPIAN INVOLVEMENT IN FULL-SCALE WAR WITH EIRTREAN SEPARATISTS GAVE SOMALIA CHANCE IT HAD BEEN WAITING FOR TO PUSH FOR ITS TERRITORIAL CLAIMS. ARMS SUPPLIER WAS OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE.

2. PERMSEC WAS VERY SKEPTICAL THAT EXPRESSION OF CONCERN VOICED BY AFRICANS RE THE USE OF SOVIET ARMS IN THE CONFLICT WOULD PRODUCE ANY POSITIVE RESULTS. HE BELIEVED THOSE WHO EXPRESSED SUCH CONCERNS WOULD RUN THE RISK OF BEING BRANDED AS FOLLOWING A PRO-WEST (U.S.) PROPAGANDA LINE. THE ONLY WAY HE COULD ENVISION A SOLUTION TO WHAT HE TERMED A "TRAGIC WAR" WOULD BE FOR THE OAU TO CONVENE A SUMMIT CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION -- AND SEND AN "INVESTIGATING TEAM" INTO THE AREA TO FORCE A CEASE-FIRE. EGYPT, HE THOUGHT, CONFIDENTIAL

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MIGHT BE THE LOCICAL INSTIGATOR OF THIS PLAN. THE OAU, HE SAID, MUST STRICTLY ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF PRESERVING THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ALL AFRICAN STATES OR IT WOULD LOSE ANY MORAL AUTHORITY IT MAY HAVE TO RESOLVE DISPUTES.

3. PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM, FOLLOWING A MEETING IN PARIS WITH THE FRENCH PRESIDENT ON SEPTEMBER 9, WAS REPORTED LOCALLY AS SAYING TO

THE PRESS THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS PREOCCUPIED ABOUT THE FIGHTING
IN THE AFRICAN HORN AREA, THE SITUATION "DID NOT LOOK LIKE IT
WAS DEVELOPING INTO A MAJOR CONFLICT."

4. IN THE FACE OF THESE VIEWS AS EXPRESSED BY HIGH RANKING
MAURITIAN OFFICIALS CONCERNING THE SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT,
IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER MAURITIUS WOULD BE WILLING OR
INTERESTED IN VOICING CONCERN OVER SOVIET ARMS POLICY IN THE
HORN, REGARDLESS OF THE TYPE OF APPROACH WE MIGHT DESIGN.
BROWN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INTERVENTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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